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**LOUISIANA CROP PROSPECTS**

The September 1 crop prospects for Louisiana indicate that all major crop production will be up significantly from last year, with sugarcane setting new records on acreage, yield and production, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. The following are prospects for the major crops:

**CORN** production is forecast at 52.1 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. Yield per acre at 127 bushels, is up 46 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, when the record book on yield began in 1866.

**Cotton** production is forecast at 850,000 bales, up 4 percent from the August 1 forecast, and 32 percent more than last year. Production is up from last month due to an upward adjustment of harvested acres to 595,000 acres. Yield per acre at 686 pounds is 11 pounds less than last month, but 100 pounds more than last year.

**Rice** production at 30.3 million cwt., down 4 percent from last month, but 8 percent above 1998. Yield per acre is forecast at 4,850 pounds, down 50 pounds from last month, but 320 pounds more than last year. Acres for harvested were revised downward this month to 625,000 acres.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 20.0 million bushels, up 7 percent from last month, compared to 7.5 million bushels last year. Yield is forecast at 80 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month, and 20 bushels above last year.

**Soybean** production is forecast at 25.3 million bushels, down 17 percent from the August 1 forecast, but up 12 percent from a year ago. Yield, forecast at 25 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from August 1, but 4 bushels more than last year.

**Sugarcane** production for sugar and seed is forecast at 15.3 million net tons, up 19 percent from 1998. If realized, this will be the highest acreage, yield, and production ever recorded in the State. Louisiana now moves ahead of Florida to become the number one State in the United States for sugarcane acreage. Yield per acre is forecast at 33 net tons, unchanged from last month, but up 3.3 net tons from last year. Recording of acreage, yield, and production began in 1909.

**U. S. CROP PROSPECTS**

**Corn** acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 71.0 million acres, unchanged from last month, but down 2 percent from 1998. The September 1 Corn Objective Yield data indicate a record level stalk count for the seven objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin). The September forecasted ear count per acre is the highest on record and, if realized, would exceed the previous record final ears per acre set in 1998. Ear measurements from the sample plots indicate a length equal to last year, and the 5-year average. As of August 29, 62 percent of the acreage was reported dented in the 17 major States. This compares with 62 percent last year, and 44 percent for the 5-year average. Corn rated in good to excellent condition totaled 57 percent compared to 69 percent for a year ago.

**Sorghum for grain** production is forecast at 580 million bushels, down 1 percent from the August forecast, but 12 percent above the 1998 production. Area harvested and to be harvested is unchanged from August, at 8.50 million acres, 10 percent higher than the previous year. The forecasted yield, at 68.2 bushels per acre, is down 1 bushel from last month, but 0.9 bushels higher than last year's yield. Compared to August, forecasted yields are higher for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma; unchanged for Colorado, Kansas, and New Mexico; and lower in the remaining States. Record high yields are expected in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. As of August 29, 28 percent of the crop was mature in the 12 major States, equal to the average. The crop matured ahead of normal in Louisiana and Mississippi during August.

**Rice** production is forecast at a record high 212 million cwt., down 1 percent from August 1, but 13 percent above 1998. Area for harvest is expected to total 3.56 million acres, down slightly from August 1, but 7 percent above a year ago. Yields are expected to average 5,967 pounds per acre, down 26 pounds from August, but up 298 pounds from 1998. Yield prospects in California, Mississippi, and Texas remained unchanged while Arkansas, and Louisiana decreased from a month ago. The Arkansas harvest was slightly ahead of schedule, while Texas was 22 percent ahead of the 5-year average. California harvest has not begun. The cooler temperatures in July are expected to delay harvest by about two weeks. As of August 29, Arkansas crop development was slightly ahead of normal, and was rated 71 percent good to excellent. The Louisiana harvest was 79 percent complete and yields are less than earlier expectations. The crop condition in Mississippi and Texas rated mostly good.

**Soybean** acres expected for harvest, at 73.3 million acres, are unchanged from August, but 3 percent above the 1998 record harvested acreage. As of August 29, the soybeans crop was rated mostly in fair to good condition. At month's end, crop conditions had deteriorated in much of the Delta, Southeast, and the Mid-Atlantic region as soil moisture levels remained depleted, and high temperatures persisted. Conditions in the

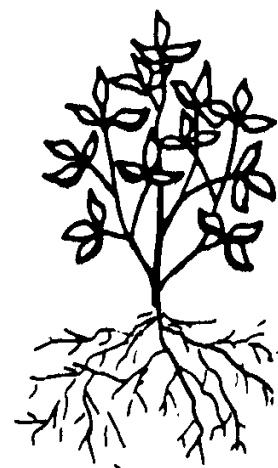
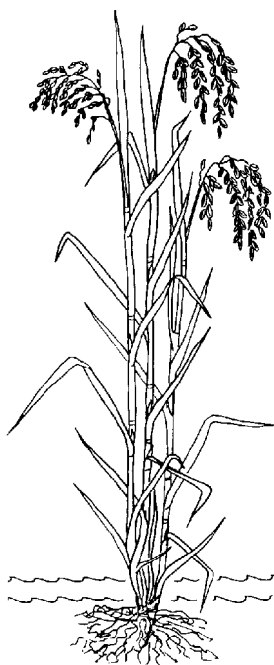
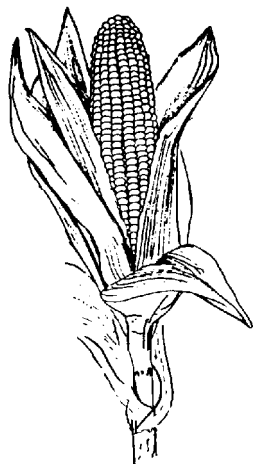
western Corn Belt States and northern tier States were more favorable during August as milder temperatures, and occasional rains eased the stress caused by the heat wave that hit in late July. In the drier eastern Corn Belt and Mid-Atlantic, the crop began to show some signs of improvement as much needed precipitation was finally received by the second week of August, and continued through the end of the month. In the seventeen Non-Objective Yield States that make yield forecasts in September, ten states reduced yields from August. The largest yield reductions in September were seen in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Kansas, and South Dakota. Yields were also lowered in Georgia, Delaware, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Yield increases were made in two states, North Dakota and Texas, while yields in Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin were unchanged from August. Overall, crop maturity was running at an accelerated pace. As of August 29, 94 percent of the soybeans crop had already set pods, 1 percentage point ahead of 1998, and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. The percent of soybeans dropping leaves, at 6 percent, was 1 percentage point ahead of the previous year, and 3 percentage points ahead of the average.

**Upland Cotton** harvested acreage is 25 percent above last year, with Louisiana increasing 30,000 acres from August 1. Condition of the cotton crop has deteriorated since last month in most of the cotton-producing States. Dry soils and above normal temperatures have stressed dryland cotton. **American-Pima** harvested acreage is also unchanged from August, at 316,200, but up 35 percent from 1998.

The Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) experienced a slight decline in the condition of their cotton during the month of August. Dry conditions continue to affect the region and reduce the potential yield. Arkansas rated 59 percent of their acreage as good to excellent, 11 percent lower

than on August 1. Mississippi showed very similar results, rating 58 percent of the cotton as good to excellent, also 11 percent below last month's rating. Missouri and Louisiana rated 38 and 32 percent, respectively, in the good to excellent categories. For Missouri, this was 1 percent lower than last month, but Louisiana's rating was down 38 percent. Tennessee rated only 20 percent of their cotton acreage as good to excellent, a 28 percent decrease from August 1. While the condition deteriorated, warm weather has resulted in accelerated maturity of the crop, and the shedding of some small bolls. Boll opening was ahead of average in all of the Delta States. On August 29, Arkansas was 42 percent open, 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Louisiana had bolls open on 63 percent of the acreage, compared to 54 percent on average. Mississippi had 80 percent of their acreage showing open bolls, 31 percent ahead of average. Cotton Objective Yield data show Arkansas' count of large boll count as the ninth lowest in the last ten years. Mississippi's large boll count ranks seventh for the same time period. Louisiana's total fruit count ranks ninth since 1990.

**Sugarcane** U.S. sugarcane production is forecast at a record high 37.1 million tons, 7 percent above the previous record of 34.7 million tons set last year. U.S. sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 987,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 1999 crop year, 4 percent more than last year's final harvested acres. The record high acreage is due to a 30,000 acre expansion in Louisiana, and a 9,000 acre increase in Florida. The expansion in Louisiana is due to increased use of a new high-yielding variety that can be harvested mechanically even if it is severely lodged. Yield is forecast at 37.5 tons per acre, 0.9 ton above 1998. A record high yield is forecast for Louisiana due to ideal growing conditions, a high yielding sugarcane hybrid, and increased utilization of a more efficient harvester. Warm weather and frequent rains promoted rapid growth in Florida.



# SEPTEMBER 1, 1999 CROP REPORT, WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	ACRES FOR HARVEST		YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			
	FINAL 1998	IND. 1999	Unit	FINAL 1998	SEPT. 1999	Unit	FINAL 1998	SEPT. 1999	
LOUISIANA	Thousand					Thousand			
	Cotton, All	525	595	Pounds	586	686	Bales 1/	641	820
	Corn, Grain 2/	540	410	Bushels	81	127	Bushels	43,740	52,070
	Wheat, All 2/	90	110	Bushels	44	47	Bushels	3,960	5,170
	Sorghum, Grain	125	250	Bushels	60	80	Bushels	7,500	20,000
	Rice	620	625	Pounds	4,530	4,850	Cwt.	28,107	30,313
	Sugarcane 3/	435	465	Net Tons	29.7	33.0	Net Tons	12,920	15,345
	Hay, All 2/	330	360	Tons	2.2	2.4	Tons	726	864
Soybeans, Beans	1,070	1,010	Bushels	21.0	25.0	Bushels	22,470	25,250	
UNITED STATES	Thousand					Million			
	Cotton, All	10,683.6	13,562.2	Pounds	625	621	Bales 1/	13.9	17.5
	Corn, Grain	72,604	70,955	Bushels	134.4	134.7	Bushels	9,761.1	9,380.9
	Wheat, All 2/	40,126	35,609	Bushels	46.9	47.4	Bushels	1,880.6	1,688.6
	Sorghum, Grain	7,723	8,499	Bushels	67.3	68.2	Bushels	519.9	580.0
	Rice	3,317	3,555	Pounds	5,669	5,967	Cwt.	188.1	212.1
	Sugarcane 3/	947.1	987.5	Net Tons	36.6	37.5	Net Tons	34.7	37.1
	Hay, All 2/	60,016	62,051	Tons	2.52	2.59	Tons	151.3	160.8
Soybeans, Beans	70,811	73,261	Bushels	38.9	37.9	Bushels	2,756.8	2,778.4	

1/480 lbs. net weight; 2/Estimate carried forward from earlier forecast; 3/For sugar and seed;



## State Rankings: Harvested Crops Louisiana and 10 Leading States, 1998

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	LA Rank
<b>Harvested Acres</b>											
Corn for Grain	IA	IL	NE	MN	IN	SD	OH	WI	KS	MO	<b>18</b>
Soybeans	IL	IA	MN	IN	MO	OH	NE	SD	AR	KS	<b>17</b>
Sorghum	KS	TX	NE	OK	MO	CO	SD	AR	LA	NM	<b>9</b>
Sweet Potatoes	NC	LA	MS	CA	TX	AL	SC	NJ	GA	VA	<b>2</b>
Rice	AR	LA	CA	TX	MS	MO	—	—	—	—	<b>2</b>
All Wheat	KS	ND	MT	OK	TX	SD	CO	WA	MN	NE	<b>34</b>
Sugarcane	FL	LA	HI	TX	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>2</b>
Cotton	TX	GA	MS	AR	CA	NC	LA	AL	TN	MO	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Acres of Principal Crops Harvested</b>	IA	IL	KS	ND	MN	NE	TX	SD	MO	IN	<b>26</b>

THE LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER (ISSN-0273-883X) IS PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY (TWICE A MONTH) BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE, 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806. SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE TO RESPONDENTS AND COOPERATORS, \$10.00 ANNUALLY TO ALL OTHERS, AND IS AVAILABLE FROM THE ABOVE ADDRESS. PERIODICALS POSTAGE IS PAID IN BATON ROUGE, LA AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER, P. O. BOX 65038, BATON ROUGE, LA 70896-5038.

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